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Niagara NEWS

VOLUME 29, NO. 10 FREE FEB. 19, 1999

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Teri Sherwood points to the spot where the Aboriginal gardens will be planted. The garden is just part of the 25-year Landscape Vision Statement.

Photo by Elisabeth Irwin

Students helping others

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

Many Hands helps many people.

The college's Recreation and Leisure Services and post-graduate Special Event Management programs are planning the second annual Many Hands project.

The project is a one-day construction and renovation blitz. The renovations are being done on The Resource Association for Teens (RAFT). RAFT is a drop-in centre for youths 16 to 20 years old. It's located at 172 Church St. in St. Catharines.

There are five committees organizing the event: volunteers, marketing, sponsorship/fund-raising, technical and hospitality.

Erin Cooper, 22, of St. Catharines, a student in the Special Event Management program, sits on the marketing committee.

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Aboriginal garden unites students

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

Expression, awareness, experience, connection and education are the objectives of the new Aboriginal Garden being put in place at Niagara College's Glendale campus.

"We see this as an opportunity for the Welland students to work at Glendale, bringing our aboriginal students together," says Sheri Longboat, of the Aboriginal Access Centre, based at the Welland campus.

Longboat has been working with Wendy Loevenmark, landscape designer at Glendale, to put the proposal in action.

To do this they hired Teri Sherwood, a second-year Horticultural Technician program student.

Sherwood, an aboriginal student from the Oneida of the Thames (First Nations), has been hired for three months to implement the Aboriginal Garden Project proposal.

Phase One is being implemented in four stages: a research report to determine design focus; design concept and construction details; implementation process; and cost estimates.

The research report will include a study of aboriginal landscapes and gardens, identifying plants significant to aboriginal culture and identifying aboriginal values and aspects of culture connected to landscape.

The design concept and construction details will include the philosophy behind the design approach, the goals and objectives for the garden, the design itself and construction details.

Implementation addresses timeframe, order of construction, variables such as surrounding development and the dispensation of funds.

Cost estimates include ground preparation, materials, plants and labour.

Longboat says finances are limited "so we want to use our finances the best we can."

She adds rather than take too much on, they plan to take the small budget and work with it.

"When we're done, at least we'll have this report. So, if finances can't come in, we can go look at other alternatives to fund such a project."

She says they'll take it one step at a time.

Longboat is "very excited" the proposal was accepted. She sees this as an opportunity to "bridge the students together."

Among the objectives are creating an opportunity for aboriginal expression and representation in the mainstream landscape.

Facilitating public awareness of aboriginal culture and the valuable contribution aboriginal thought brings to the Canadian landscape is key.

It will provide an opportunity for aboriginal students to gain horticulture experience and create a connection between the aboriginal community and Niagara College.

In addition, it will increase diverse educational opportunities at the Glendale campus.

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Eye On Niagara

Making friends, learning simultaneously

Baher Mustafa (left) and Linden Barrett are in the middle of a conversation.

Photo by Mun-Hee Shin

International students use conversation to learn English

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

There's a way you can develop friendship internationally at Niagara College.

Matching conversation partners for international students has occurred since 1991.

"At the time, international students were involved in counselling with the college teachers," said Susan Vandenboom, 38, of Fonthill, a co-ordinator of the English as a Second Language, adding there were only 12 international students at the college.

Vandenboom said she tried to introduce international students to Canadian students through posters, the Student Administrative Council and advertisements in *Niagara News*.

She indicated there are two aspects she's hoping to achieve.

One is for international students to make Canadian friends so they can practice English, enrich their Canadian experience and understand what Canadian students are like.

The other is for Canadian students to make international friends, to gain a better understanding about them and to improve communication skills by speaking with people who don't have English as a first language.

"The more I talk to them, the more I learn about them and their culture," said Linden Barrett, 21, of Barbados, a second-year Human Relations program student.

Barrett said he has two international partners for his volunteer-work experience.

He added their conversation topics vary depending on the situation.

"I get a lot of help from him. He explains to me new words that I don't know in English, and we get to know about each other," said Baher Mustafa, 19, of Jordan, who is Barrett's partner.

"I think it's a great idea and hope many Canadian students to try it. They will be satisfied with it," said Barrett.

Being a conversation partner, one is involved in meeting with international students once a week for one hour.

Elizabet Leeuwenburg, of Wainfleet, a first-year student of the Educational Resources and Special Needs (ERSN) program, said, "It'll be really nice to meet someone from another country to see what's their culture like and show them our culture."

Misako Saito, 26, of Japan, a first-year student of the Office Administration Executive program, said she has been in Canada for about a year.

She said she had worked for a company which had to deal, in English, with American attorneys.

"I needed English skill to correspond with them, so I was very frustrated because of my poor English," said Saito, adding that's why she decided to come to Canada.

> ***'The more I talk to them, the more I learn about them and their culture.' — Linden Barrett***

Saito added, "It's precious time for me to have an opportunity like this."

Vandenboom said she visited the ERSN program, first-year Journalism-Print program and Human Relations program to ask students to apply as a conversation partner.

In addition, she sent notices to the Child and Youth Worker program and Social Service Worker program.

She mentioned that sometimes it doesn't work because she has to rely on Canadian students' applications.

"However, I feel quite positive about it, generally, and we have some really successful matches," said Vandenboom.

97% students support SAC health, drug plan

An increase in tuition of $54.71 for students without alternative coverage

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Seven per cent of Niagara College's students voted in favour of a Student Administrative Council (SAC) sponsored health and drug plan.

On Feb. 10, 352 students voted with an overwhelming 97 per cent in favour of the plan.

During the all campus SAC meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 17, SAC representatives voted in favour of implementing the plan.

Some of the SAC representatives were hesitant on agreeing to the plan so soon. They wanted to wait for the Key Performance Indicators survey which had a question about the health plan and would represent much more than seven per cent of the college's students but Cindy Blanchard, Welland SAC's office manager and SAC's financial administrator said, that under their constitution "the results of a referendum are binding to student council."

The plan will be implemented, next year and it will increase tuition by $54.71 unless students are already covered by another plan. If you have coverage elsewhere you must show proof of the alternative coverage and you will receive a refund of $44.71.

The plan covers many items, such as 80 per cent of prescription drugs' cost, up to $5,000 a year, tutorial expenses up to $1,500 if you are sick, payment for fractures and dislocation of bones and emergency transportation expenses, up to $1,000 a year.

Coverage for family members and dependents is available for an additional $99. This coverage includes a married or common law spouse and children under 21 or if they're a full-time student to age 25.

ACL and Associates Ltd. has provided student heath and dental programs for more than five years. They have partnerships with 20 colleges and universities in Ontario. They have an office in St. Catharines on 111 Fourth Ave., Suite 411, telephone number is 705-326-3112.

To get a copy of the complete coverage information, students can go to their SAC office.

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Editorial

Niagara News

The **Niagara News** is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211 Ext. 7753/ 374-7454/ 641-2252/ 563-3254 FAX (905) 736-6005.

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Protection, key to future

An epidemic has invaded our world and we are standing idly by unaware and ignorant. Information about how to prevent getting AIDS has been drummed through our heads, yet no one seems to have retained the knowledge.

Maybe someday there will be a cure for HIV and AIDS, but until then the danger is very real and the disease is steadily stealing the lives of our loved ones.

Promiscuous and unsafe sex has been practiced for quite some time. Everyone is scared, but many try to deny they could ever be infected. The worry of pregnancy and STDs is now minor in comparison. We are facing the possibility of death and the AIDS virus is rapidly working its way through our population.

It is not a homosexual disease nor a poor person's disease. It is everyone's disease, including the *Wonder Bread-Leave it to Beaver* type families of the world. As a society, we need to value one another, love each other and love life.

Protection is the key to our futures. Value life and choose life.

Noelle Stapinsky

No more excuses

Television has grown and evolved over the years and so have the shows being aired on the networks.

The programs' subjects and focus have changed as society has changed, and individual experiences and ideals have grown to new levels.

Many people argue the content in the shows today is violent and disturbing and lacks family values.

Many people directly blame the violence shown on television for children lashing out violently at friends and family.

Blaming television for a child's behaviour isn't the answer or a very good excuse.

In today's society, parents are forced to work full-time jobs and can't spend the time needed to guide their children properly.

Parents who make the decision to have children need to realize their absence is the root of the problem.

If people say the shows lack family values, and if television relates to the experiences within a society, maybe people should take the time to re-establish their own family values.

If society starts to focus on the importance of family and less on money and power, the programs on television will again change to fit that society's structure.

Tyler-Leigh Robinson

Countdown begins

By SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

I have a confession to make.

I have no idea what I want to be when I grow up. Considering the fact I'll be graduating from Niagara College in less than three months, that's a scary statement.

When I was a little girl I wanted to be a figure skater so I could be in the Ice Capades when I grew up.

I'm starting to think that's not going to happen, especially since I've never taken figure skating lessons. So what should I be? I've got less than 12 weeks to decide.

Considering the fact I'm in journalism, I guess it's pretty obvious I could be a reporter, but the truth is I'm not so sure I want to do that for the rest of my life. I love writing but I hate deadlines, and I'm not exactly great at talking to people I don't know.

My four-year-old cousin Blair says he thinks I should be a firefighter when I grow up.

I'm thinking more along the lines of an heiress, except nobody I know has millions of dollars to leave me in a will. Just as with the figure skating thing, once again, I'm out of luck.

For years, I've waited for the day to come when I'd be finished school and go out into the real world. That day is getting closer and closer. Now I don't think I want it to come.

Graduation weeks away

I like my life the way it is. I like school and working part time and being able to go out with my friends. Once I graduate and get a full-time serious job, I'm going to have a lot more to worry about.

Although legally I'm an adult, I have to admit I don't actually want to be one. I don't want adult responsibilities or adult problems. I don't want to be out in the real world. My dad says I can live at home for the rest of my life as long as I don't make a mess, and I think I might just take him up on that offer.

Eventually, I'm sure I'll decide what I want to do with the rest of my life, what kind of career I want.

Eventually, I'll move out on my own. I just don't think the timing is there right now. I'm only 19.

Let us know your opinion

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is:

1. **All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication.**
2. **Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.**
3. **All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.**

All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

Corrections

In the Volume 29, No. 8 edition of the *Niagara News* , in the report on page 8 entitled "Hot Skills 2000 this week, Cisco by fall," A+ was incorrectly identified as a Microsoft certification. It is a Comptia certification.

The program does not have C-tech certification. It should have read Certified Technical Education Centre (CTEC.)

It is the policy of the Niagara News to correct errors of fact.

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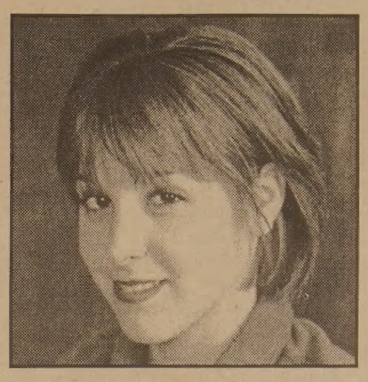
Viewpoints

Sometimes best revenge is living well



By SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

Revenge is sweet, so they say. What do you do when someone hurts your feelings, a relationship fails, or if the person just generally ruins your day? Do you let it go? Do you seek revenge?

Let's be honest. Most of us, at some time, have "gotten revenge" on another person. Revenge is the stuff of which books, movies and, especially, soap operas are made. Someone does something that ticks you off. You get that person back. It's as easy as that. Or is it?

We've seen how revenge can backfire. Do you really need to sink to the level of the person who annoyed you in the first place?

I had the opportunity to ponder this last week. A woman I know spent the better part of last year spreading nasty lies and rumours about a friend for whom I truly care. Everything was untrue, complete fiction.

A lot of what she said hurt me, mostly because it made me think my friend was a lying, self-centred, little weasel. He's not. He's actually one of the sweetest people I know.

I should never have believed it in the first place. I wouldn't trade his friendship for anything. However, I came pretty close to never talking to him again after hearing what I'd heard.

We actually got into a fight or two. It almost ruined my friendship with him. That's what she wanted. I finally found out the truth when someone she'd confided in came and told me what had really happened.

What's next? First, I wanted revenge, but is it really that sweet? I think I'd like to find out.

My friends are divided on the issue. One or two have told me to go for it, and even offered to help. My friend Cris says the best revenge is living well, and, because the friendship wasn't ruined, I ultimately won.

I think a lot of the reason people want revenge is they're angry at themselves for letting someone get to them in the first place. There's a feeling you don't have any control because you let someone affect your life so greatly and in such a negative way.

You tell yourself the only way you can feel better is if you make him or her as upset as you are. There's also a feeling you're in a losing situation. Someone beat you at a game you should have won. By getting revenge, it's showing that person up, pulling a trump card and winning the game at the last minute.

Certain people just aren't worth it

If that makes you feel better, by all means go for it. There's no need to take it to extremes but a little vengeance never hurts, especially if it gives you peace of mind.

As for me, I'm going to let it go. There are certain things and people who aren't worth it. Don't get me wrong. I'm sure one day very soon I'll tell her what I know so she can live in fear.

I'm not going to do the revenge thing. I'm over it.

Chretien's behaviour shames Canadians

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Welcome to Canada, home of people who have no respect or class. That's what the rest of the world is thinking.

Just when you thought he couldn't screw up any more than he already has, he proves you wrong.

I'm talking about our fearless and charismatic leader Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, the man who heads the party we elected to represent and lead Canada in today's global village.

I must say he, so far, has failed miserably — in all respects — in his ability to do this and prove it to the rest of us.

First, it was the placement of Canadian flags on the desks of parliamentarians. Then it was not interfering with a judge's decision to allow the possession of child pornography. Now it's his lack of respect for one of the Middle East's most influential leaders.

Chretien decided skiing at the Whistler resort in British Columbia was far more important than paying this nation's respects to the deceased Jordanian King Hussein's family and subjects — and all of this while Canada is head of the United Nation's Security Council.

As Canadians we should care how Canada is viewed by the rest of the world. This latest incident should be an embarrassment to us all.

I, for one, won't forget this when it comes time to vote in the next election. Neither should the rest of Canada.

I must admit I'm embarrassed to be a Canadian, not because we live in the world's greatest and most beautiful country, but because we have a grumbling bunch of idiots who run it.

Feds boost health care

Billions in transfer payments to benefit provinces

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

The federal government announced in the Feb. 16 budget it will restore transfer payments of $11.5 billion to the provinces as long as they use it for health care.

This is an excellent idea and should be put in writing, not once, not twice, but thrice. This is especially true for the province of Ontario where Premier Mike Harris is frothing at the mouth at the thought of this money arriving.

I think I heard the Premier throwing furniture around after realizing he really did have to put it in writing. Someone was taking a tantrum in the background when Ontario Finance Minister Ernie Eves was interviewed on the CBC evening news. Even Eves was looking around to see where the commotion was coming from.

If this agreement is in writing, Harris would have a hard time weaseling, diverting, hiding, whatever . . . the money for himself.

It's about time the federal government sent some of the so-called surplus back down to where it came from. Let's face it, the federal government is looking at its next election as well as the provinces.

No one, neither the federal nor provincial governments, is putting anything extra financially into health care. They're only putting back a fraction of what they've taken.

Transfer payments include $1.1 billion over the next five years.

That doesn't cover the damage done.

Harris is saying he wants to spend more money on paramedics and ambulance services. That's great, but where are the ambulances supposed to take these people?

Drive them around the block a few times and see what happens?

This is more than a state of emergency. It's a disgrace!

It's nobody's business

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

I'm sick to death of people sticking their noses in other people's business.

Why are they so interested in what everyone else is doing?

It seems people are always trying to find out what everyone else is up to. What intrigues people so?

It bothers me to no end when someone, a mere acquaintance, asks me a question of a personal nature.

I don't understand how a person could build up the nerve to ask a question like that from someone hardly known to me.

What intrigues people so?

Does the desire to know really blind people to the fact they're acting out of line?

How can people's curiosity make them act in ways they'd normally find inappropriate?

It's time people stop concerning themselves with the interests of others and start concentrating on their own interests.

If people would do this, there would be a lot less invasion of privacy and a lot more productivity.

Musicians Wanted

The Niagara News is seeking local indie bands which are looking for some FREE publicity! If your band has a recently released CD, or is in the process of producing a CD, then you'll want to be in our music supplement to be published March 26, 1999.
First come basis and space is limited.
If interested call (905) 735-2211/374-7454/641-2252 ext. 7748

Focus on Finance

Wal-Mart recruiting drive stops at Niagara

400 students provided with information for careers

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

Good leaders that "fit" in are needed by an expanding corporation.

About 400 students listened to a presentation from representatives of Wal-Mart Canada Inc. in a packed auditorium E101 at Niagara College's Glendale campus on Feb. 10.

"This recruiting drive is all new to Wal-Mart Canada," David Sanders, manager, recruitment and development, home office, Mississauga, said.

"It's to meet our business needs based upon our growth in Canada. This year we're building 17 new stores across Canada and as a result, we need to recruit leaders to manage the operations of those stores."

The first Wal-Mart store opened in Rogers, Ark., in 1962 by the store's creator, Sam Walton. Today, Wal-Mart's international division operates stores in Korea, China, Germany, Brazil, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Canada. With about 850,000 employees worldwide, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is the world's largest retail corporation.

Wal-Mart Canada Inc. was formed in March 1994 and operates 152 stores across the country with about 33,000 employees.

Sanders said his purpose at Niagara College was to provide students with information on how to launch their careers, while at the same time he was promoting Wal-Mart's values and the management career starts available there.

"When we're looking at the leaders who join the organization, we're really looking for the attitude, that positive attitude, that positive energy. We're looking for the fit between that individual's values and the values of the organization.

"The three core values of Wal-Mart Canada are integrity, service orientation and focus on results. And if people have the proven competencies that meet with those values, then that's a good fit as far as joining the team at Wal-Mart."

Other speakers for the session included Michelle Cunningham, personnel manager, Hamilton; Anita Cuschieri, store manager, Brantford; Brian Walker, manager, training and development, home office, Mississauga; and Deanna Williams, assistant store manager, Niagara Falls.

The recruiting team spoke about a 12-week management intern program. If a student is selected, efforts will be made for the intern to be assigned to a store convenient to that person's school or hometown. Most internships begin mid-May and conclude before the student returns to school for the next semester.

Wal-Mart Canada also offers a 16-week operations management training program, designed to give the student the opportunity to learn and apply basic skills necessary to advance to the assistant manager position.

Wayne Sadlak, co-op consultant, Employment Services, Niagara College, Glendale campus, said, "The opportunity to have Wal-Mart come on campus was certainly beneficial to our students to increase their awareness of what Wal-Mart is all about as a corporation . . . We hope to follow this up by being able to forward some résumés on to David Sanders and his recruiting team.

"And we're sure that this is just the beginning of a long relationship with Wal-Mart as far as regular ongoing recruiting drives of co-op students and graduates, particularly from the business programs."

Sadlak said he worked closely with Sanders and a number of college staff members, including staff from Employment Services, to arrange the visit.

Sanders added, "I must say that the customer service and the hospitality that's been demonstrated by Wayne Sadlak and the team of Niagara College is the best. This is the best reception that we've had across Canada to date."

For further information, contact Employment Services, Ext. 7787 at the Welland campus, Ext. 4165 at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Ext. 3614 at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

Sadlak can be reached at Ext. 4164.

Sanders is at Wal-Mart's home office, 1940 Argentia Rd. in Mississauga, 905-821-2111, Fax: 905-821-6393, E-mail: DISANDE, Internet: DISANDE@wal-mart.com.

Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) will sponsor a job fair and career day on Tuesday, Feb. 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Ramada Parkway Convention Centre, 325-327 Ontario St., St. Catharines. Admission is free.

Employment seminars will be held throughout the day by the Business Education Council, YACES, Job Gym, Casino Niagara, Marusa Marketing Inc., Niagara College, the Ontario Provincial Police, Algoma Central Marine and HRDC. Kelly Services is also a sponsor in partnership with HRDC.

From left to right, Wal-Mart personnel, Michelle Cunningham, Anita Cuschieri, David Sanders, Brian Walker and Deanna Williams spoke to 400 students at Niagara College Glendale campus.
Photo by Melinda Spurvey

Income tax time

Fast, free returns at college

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

It's fast, free and available at Niagara College.

From March 8 until March 19, students can have their income tax returns filed through Revenue Canada.

Revenue Canada trains Niagara College students to do the basic income tax returns.

For the past four years, Revenue Canada has been training volunteers, and John Pruyn, EFILE coordinator, has been involved for the last three years.

Pruyn said, "Students are trained at the Glendale campus in one of the computer labs on Feb. 27."

Electronic filing, or EFILE, is an automatic way of filing income tax returns.

To date there are 12 volunteers who will learn how to prepare and EFILE returns.

Pruyn said they "gain practical experience."

The volunteers are found through the Employment Services, and they will receive a small fee for doing it.

The Welland and Glendale campuses will have locations set up for students to drop in with their slips and a five- or 10-minute interview with the student who will be entering the data.

Last year over 150 students used the free service and received their income tax refunds within 14 days of filing.

Jean D'Amelio Swyer, communications manager for Revenue Canada, said students planning to have their income tax filed through the college are reminded to gather all their slips and income tax information when they return from Break Week.

On average $836, including the goods and services tax, was given in refunds to Niagara College students last year.

Signs will be posted around the college indicating the locations and times the free service will be available.

To advertise call
(905) 735-2211
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Canada

Reliable fathers don't need FRO

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

The Family Responsibility Office (FRO) began for a good reason. Is it working or just causing more trouble than it's worth?

Many have heard of the office and its role in assisting mothers in receiving child support payments from estranged fathers.

Sections of the Family Responsibility and Support Arrears Enforcement Act from 1996 are law. The new act includes some of the toughest enforcement measures in North America. At least that's what the pamphlet says that's sent to parents involved in the plan.

Robert Miller, 22, has been separated from his ex-girlfriend, Heather Wood, for two years and has been through the FRO system, concerning their two-year-old daughter, Patricia. He lives in Huron Park, Ont., and is paying $163 monthly to Wood.

Above, Robert Miller, of Huron Park, is enjoying his time with his two-year-old daughter, Patricia.
Photo by Angela Pickering

Miller is paying in accordance with the income he has. He says the plan to "crackdown on dead-beat fathers" who don't want to pay for their children is a good idea.

"The problem is that it is not efficient or reliable for those fathers, like myself, that do help pay for their kids and don't abuse the system," says Miller.

"I am not in the Family Responsibility Office anymore, because Heather and I had so much trouble dealing with them. I spent the money and went to court to have it taken out of the plan. I am currently paying Heather by cheques at the first of every month. It's so much more simple that way."

The premise of FRO is that a percentage of wages is automatically deducted from the paycheque and sent to the mother.

Miller says when this was happening, it was taking months for Wood to receive the payment deducted. At one point, he says, it took three months to get her child support and yet the funds were still being deducted on schedule for every paycheque.

"Heather was complaining that she was running short of money and, some months, I would end up paying out of my pocket as well because I didn't want Patricia to go without anything she needed."

He says it took "forever" to process anything because of the recent downsizing of offices. This caused a problem for Miller.

He received a notice from the FRO a month ago saying $1,592.80 was owed to Heather in back-payments. It had taken so long for them to process the court papers, they didn't know Miller had been paying Wood monthly child support since their break up. The FRO was threatening to deduct 50 per cent of Miller's paycheque by Feb. 1 if they didn't hear back from him saying otherwise.

Miller contacted his lawyer, who had Wood sign a paper saying she'd been paid child support every month. His lawyer marked it "Urgent!" and faxed it to FRO offices. It wasn't until Jan. 28 the FRO responded to Miller's lawyer saying everything was cleared.

"I was so relieved. I would've been in serious financial trouble if I had to hand over half of my paycheque to Heather," says Miller after the ordeal had been sorted out.

He says he understands the good intentions of the FRO, but it's not a matter he wanted to be part of. Sadly, some fathers are treated like babysitters or criminals, says Miller. Until they know what's going on, the FRO personnel shouldn't be so quick to judge fathers as dead-beats, or the mothers as the innocent victim. The child is the only one they should worry about.

"I know there are a lot of men who do try to weasel their way out of supporting their kids, but, in my experience, I generally believe it is a misunderstanding on the Family Responsibility Office's side. It is a very detailed matter and they have a long way to go before they are efficient or reliable in getting support money to the kids who are entitled to it."

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Canada

Broadcasting

Students travel North America for films

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

Third-year film documentaries are being produced and this year's Niagara College students are travelling far afield to capture the essence of their films.

There are four documentaries being filmed: *The Right of Passage, Magic Symphony, Cross Roads,* and *The Newfoundland Screeching In*. The class was split into four groups, each with an adventure.

Mike Gillman, 24, of Ottawa, is a third-year film student from the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program. The documentary he's involved with is called *The Right of Passage*. The group's film is half way to completion.

The Right of Passage is a about urban exploration which some consider trespassing.

"The opinion of our director, Brent Orr, is that it is illegal, not wrong," said Gillman.

The group recently returned from New York City, where they filmed men climbing the Williamsburg Bridge.

"People in New York seem to climb things more than explore buildings," said Gillman.

The group interviewed two people under the aliases Laughing Boy and Lefty Lebwicz.

All of the interviews they conducted during the film are with people who produce magazines about exploring old buildings, mapping them out, taking pictures and giving advice to those who get caught.

While in New York City they also filmed at Grand Central Station.

The Right of Passage group visited Toronto's Royal York Hotel and had an interview with a man who goes by the alias Ninjalicious.

The documentary pitched by Heather Vanbiesbrouk, of Grimsby, Ont., is entitled the *Magic Symphony*. It's about the sounds that affect everyday life. It portrays how music and sound can carry emotion in our lives from a rocking chair's rhythm to a heart monitor beeping.

The film is a series of sounds floating into one another telling the story of a life.

"They are sounds of everyday life that we don't pay attention to but are beautiful," said Kevin Dragonautz, 22, of Hamilton, a BRTF third-year film student.

On March 1, the *Crossroads* group will be travelling to Mississippi to the crossroads where many blues musicians believed you could sell your soul to the devil for musical talent.

This has been a popular place since the early 20th century.

"Robert Johnson lived in the town near the crossroads," said Bob Doyle, 24, of Niagara Falls, a BRTF third-year film student and cameraman for the documentary. "He sold his soul to the devil for musical ability and died at age 30 under mysterious circumstances."

They hope to talk to blues historians and musicians.

"We also believe that one of Robert Johnson's old girlfriends is still alive and living there," said Doyle.

Currently, four students are in Newfoundland, filming the tradition of *The Newfoundland Screeching In*.

One is screeched in to be an honourary Newfoundlander. The tradition starts with going to a local bar and having to wear a big yellow captain's hat and kissing a codfish. Then a local Newfoundlander recites a line of a well-known local song and the person to be screeched in must repeat the line with the exact accent. The last step is to drink a shot of Screech. Screech is a rum originally imported from Jamaica. Now the rum can only be found in Newfoundland.

When the tradition started, the importers were the first to be screeched in and they call it screech because of the noise the importers made when they drank the rum.

All of the film crew will be screeched in during the documentary.

The director of *The Newfoundland Screeching In* is Phil Hogan, 26, of Mount Pearl, Nfld.

The third-year film students raised about $800, but had to split it four ways. Some of the groups had sponsors to help pay their expenses.

"We will continue to fund-raise for our films, possibly with a movie night at the pub or in the Hamilton Room and we might have a bowling tournament," said Dragonautz.

Production dedicated to injury awareness

BY MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

Most accidents are predictable and preventable.

That was one of many statements repeated throughout *Heroes*, an educational 60-minute multi-media and live production dedicated to injury awareness and prevention.

The presentation by SMARTRISK was showcased at Brock University's The Playhouse Feb. 4 and 5.

Jim Frith, technical director, says the *Heroes* show has toured coast to coast since 1992 with SMARTRISK.

"SMARTRISK is a non-profit foundation which is leading the injury prevention movement in Canada to draw attention to the huge problem that injuries cause in this country.

"Injuries cost over $8 billion annually to treat. The goal of SMARTRISK is to educate Canadians so they can live long, healthy, injury-free lives."

The individuals who perform with the show are from various areas of Canada, each with a different story to tell.

"Presently, there are eight people from different areas of Canada who tour for different periods of time depending on their own schedules.

"Some people have full-time positions and some people are involved in different projects, so it really depends where we are going and who can go on tour at the time," says Frith.

Most accidents are predictable and preventable

Melissa Hague, a paraplegic since the age of 12, told the audience the story of how she has come to live with her injury.

A drunken driver killed her mother and left her injured. She says, "Only you can be responsible for your own life.

"It dawned on me that I had to make the best of my situation and I had to live my life in a wheelchair."

Hague says there are five easy strategies to help a person live life free of risk and injury:

1. Buckle up.
2. Drive sober.
3. Look first.
4. Wear the gear.
5. Get trained.

For more information on *Heroes* visit the SMARTRISK website at www.smartrisk.ca.

Volunteers needed

Continued from Page 1

Last year Many Hands renovated All People's Day Care in Welland.

Cooper says she has seen pictures of the previous construction and "it looked good."

Renovations and construction on RAFT will be done on storage areas, counselling rooms and a new patio with a fence.

Cooper says, "A lot of the volunteers from last year will be helping."

The lead sponsor is Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd.

Many Hands is still looking for volunteers, says Cooper, adding no special skills are required.

The blitz takes place on May 15.

To volunteer, or donate services, contact David Veres, co-ordinator of the Special Event Management program, at 735-2211 ext. 7734.

Apple Canada, Macromedia to demonstrate latest product

Apple Canada and Macromedia will be demonstrating their latest product lines at a special Niagara College-sponsored presentation Tuesday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. till noon.

The special event will be held in the After Hours facility at the Welland campus, 300 Woodlawn Rd.

Apple Canada will feature imacs, in all their colours, as well as the completely reinvented powerful Power Macintosh G3.

Macromedia is the leading developer of software for the multimedia industry.

The School of Media and Design, within the college's Computer and Information Technology division, is host for the free admission event. The public is welcome to attend. Paid parking is $3.

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- *One of four pairs of tickets to see BLUE RODEO Feb. 19 at the Niagara Dome.*
- *Tickets & Two-for-One Coupons to SAILESH the XXX-RATED HYPNOTIST at Malibu Jacks in Niagara Falls.*

**** Just fill out this ballot & drop it off at the Fishbowl across from the Library ****

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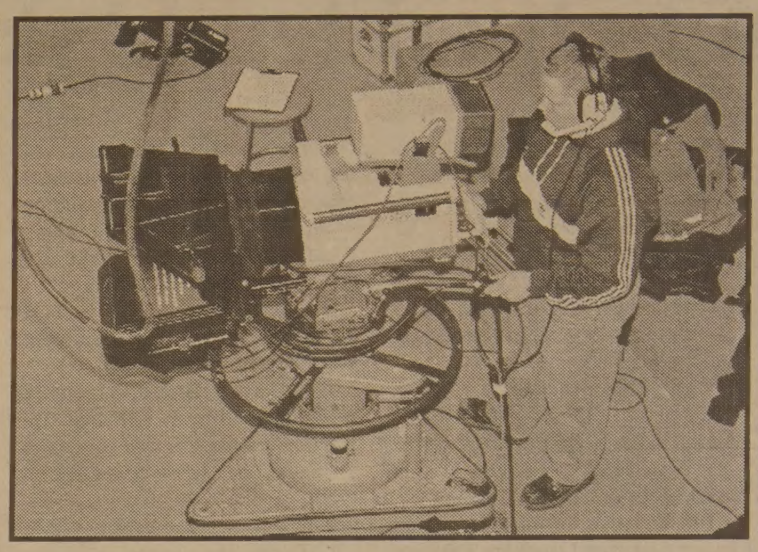
Student #: _____

Students producing live news magazine



Students in the second year of Niagara College's Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program are producing a live weekly 30-minute news and information program from the college's Welland campus television studios.

The program, called *Inside Niagara*, is telecast live at noon every Thursday on COGECO Community Cable 10 in Welland, St. Catharines, Thorold, Niagara Falls, Pelham, Port Colborne, Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Each show will be rebroadcast on Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at noon. The show will be produced each week through Thursday, April 24, except Thursday, March 4, the college's study week.

Kevin Sharpen, Derek Stevely and Richard Susse at the control panel. (Left)

Blake Jensen, cameraman, taping the on-air personalities. (Top)

Lisa Moore receives direction from director Harry Tye. (Right)

Photos by Jeff Bolan

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Black History Month

Tubman helped lead 'slaves' to freedom

1850 Slave Act passed

By LAZARUS NATHANE
Staff Writer

February is Black History month in Canada.

A number of events are planned in the Niagara Region to raise public interest in African-Canadian heritage. Theatre, visual arts displays and a dinner are among the commemorative activities.

These include a play written by Don Thomas, Niagara Black History Association president, for the month-long celebrations.

The Tooth of a Lion is a drama about the flight from slavery in the American south to the sanctuary of the Niagara Region.

Thomas says it portrays how the slaves' lives were in the southern plantations.

"I'm not making a social comment with the play," he says. "Our greatest goal is to raise funds for the Norval Johnson Heritage Library."

The library, which houses "mostly" black history, is on Peer Street in Niagara Falls.

Thomas's play debuts at Oh Canada Eh!? theatre on Feb. 23. Entry fee is $10. Booking can be made in advance or tickets bought at the door, he says.

Oh Canada Eh!? is at the corner of Robinson and Buchanan Streets in Niagara Falls.

For those with an eye for visual arts, an exhibition of a painting by Margaret Elizabeth Anne, a local artist, will be held at the St. Catharines Museum on Government Road near Lock 3.

Suzane Melville, the museum's education curator, says the painting, *Moments . . . Lives Caught in Flight*, "celebrates the plight, struggles and successes of Anne's ancestors."

The exhibition started Feb. 10 when David J. Fox, the artist's son, was the guest speaker.

In addition, British Methodist Episcopal Church will host the Harriet Tubman dinner on March 14, says June Harper, the church's clerk.

Located on Geneva Street in St. Catharines, the church is a year-round tourist attraction as it forms part of the Niagara Freedom Trail.

According to the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Tubman fellowshipped there in the 1850's when she was a city resident.

Known as "Moses" to her people, she was born into slavery in 1820 in Maryland in the United States.

She was, like other slaves, "mistreated" until she escaped in 1849 to the slave-free northern states.

Tubman returned periodically to the American south to help lead "hundreds of slaves" to freedom.

When the U.S. Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, allowing owners to recapture runaways, she expanded her operations across the Canadian border.

Upper Canada has had humanitarian policies since May 21, 1793, when Lieutenant Governor John Simcoe introduced a bill forbidding slavery.

For eight years, says the foundation, Tubman lived on North Street in St. Catharines. She returned to the U.S. at the outbreak of the Civil War to serve in the Union Army.

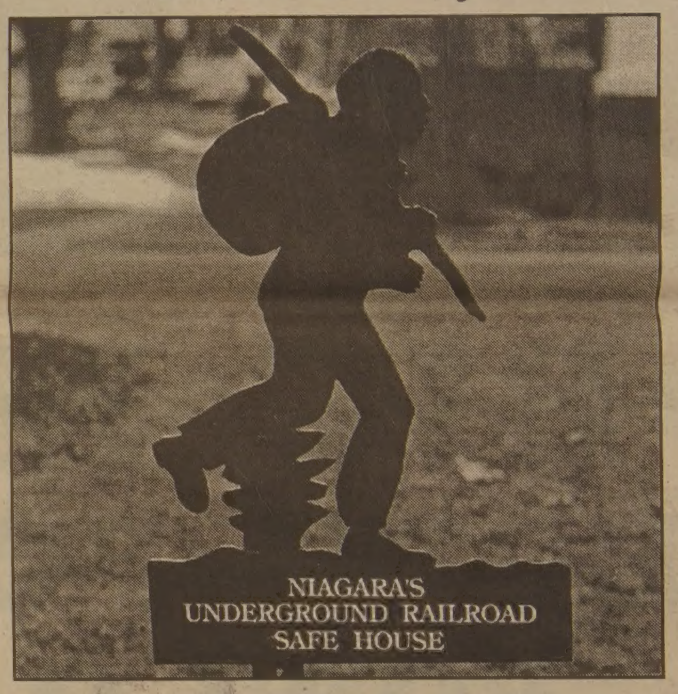
The Niagara Region Economic and Tourism Corp. has produced a brochure highlighting freedom trail sites.

These include Bertie Hall on the Niagara Parkway in Fort Erie, a home used as a "safe house" for freedom seekers in those days.

Another is Parliament Oak School on King Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Upper Canada's first Parliament. It's where the 1793 anti-slavery act was passed.

Underlining this year's celebrations is the recent publication of *Niagara Freedom Trail.* The 72-page book, by Owen A. Thomas, highlights that aspect of African-Canadian history.

Black History



From 1840-1860 more than 113,000 African-Americans used the Underground Railroad to escape slavery in the United States. **Photo by Rachel Czifra**

Built in the 1830s, Bertie Hall, on the Niagara River in Fort Erie, was used from 1840-1860 as a safe house for slaves fleeing the United States seeking freedom in Canada. **Photo by Rachel Czifra**

Canadian people friendly, respect others' privacy

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

Just off the east coast of South Africa lies the country of Madagascar.

To many Canadians it seems like a long way away, but to Fanjanianina Andriamamphianina it's home.

The 19-year-old Madagascarian came to Canada in November 1998, hoping to improve her English language skills.

Since she had two months before the January semester started, her aunt from Miami, Fla., and her uncle from New York visited her and took her sightseeing in the area.

She said her aunt took her to Toronto and Port Colborne.

"I really liked Toronto."

She went to Niagara Falls with her uncle.

Her sightseeing there included the Festival of Lights, which, she said, she saw twice, and a trip to the Skylon Tower.

"I went to the top of the tower and I took lots of pictures."

Visiting the Niagara Region isn't enough for the English as a Student Language (ESL) program student as she wants "to visit Quebec, Ottawa and Montreal," when she has time off school.

For Andriamamphianina, this is her first time living on her own, and she said she lives in Welland in a basement apartment.

"My uncle searched for it."

She said "the first day at my place I was excited, but after that I was homesick."

Even though Andriamamphianina is a long way from home she stays in close contact with her family talking to them once a week and her aunt almost daily.

She is in Level 2 of the ESL program, taking grammar, oral communication, reading, writing, listening and speaking classes.

FANJANIANINA ANDRIAMAMPHIANINA

She said, "Oral communication is fun."

Asked what she was planning after the ESL program, she smiled and said, "I'm going to take regular program, maybe computers."

She wanted to come to Canada to learn English because, she said, "you need it for work, always need someone who speaks English. (If you) go abroad difficult if (you) don't speak English."

According to Andriamamphianina, "English is the most international language."

She chose Canada to improve her English because her uncle said some people speak French in this area, so it would be easy for her to talk to others while she's trying to learn English.

In Madagascar, school courses are taught not only in Madagasy, which is her first language, but in French.

"Sometimes English is easier than other languages like French."

She isn't planning to return home until she finishes her "studies because it's too expensive."

A difference between Madagascar and Canada, she said, is that in her country everyone always wants to know what you're doing. In Canada people are "friendly but they respect your privacy."

Andriamamphianina has travelled on a plane twice in her life, and both times she took the flight alone. In August she went to Navioki, Kenya, to check for her visa for Canada.

She said her family had to "work and study," so she had no choice but to make the trip alone.

In Madagascar she said she had part-time jobs as a receptionist and at a raceway.

'The first day at my new place I was excited, but after that I was homesick."

—Fanjanianina Andriamamphianina

Outside of school, she likes to spend time with her friends, watch movies and go to parties.

Hearing about Niagara College through friends she came to Canada to study English. After being here for a few weeks, she said, "The college is good and so are the teachers. They are the best."

For Andriamamphianina, studying abroad is a new experience, she said, she'll take with her everywhere.

Multi-Cultural Canada

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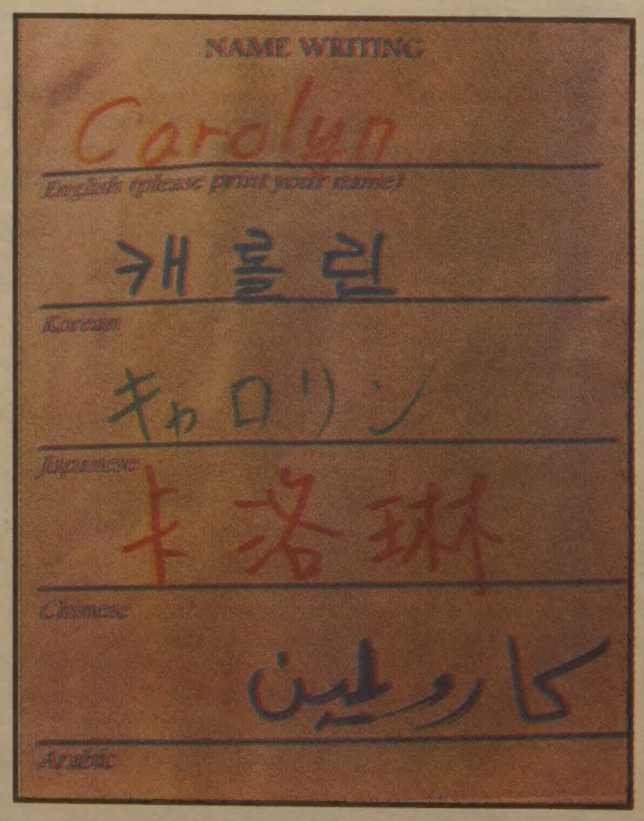
China too far away? Then go to St. Catharines.

Ji-Sun, wearing a traditional gown, displays some ancient Korean articles (such as rubber shoes and clothing accessories.)

Photos by Mun - Hee Shin & Rachel Czifra



Would a word, spelled any other way. . . be legible?

Black History Month

Tubman, 'Black Moses', liberator

Historical giant liberated thousands of enslaved African-Americans

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

Despite being small in stature Harriet Tubman became a historical giant by liberating thousands of enslaved African-Americans.

Tubman, born into slavery in Maryland in 1821, was an African-American woman and a runaway slave.

She led hundreds of slaves to freedom by using the Underground Railroad, which led them to the non-slave owning American northern states and Canada.

There were also escape routes for slaves to Mexico and to some West Indian islands.

The Underground Railroad was a secret, extensive and highly organized series of escape routes extending thousands of miles towards the north. It was used by abolitionists and freed black people to help lead the black slaves to freedom in the north.

As part of the Underground Railroad, safe houses or stations were used to shelter and feed runaway slaves. These stations were owned by abolitionists who hid the freedom-seeking slaves in secret root cellars, barns and rooms.

The final destination for the runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad were places called terminals.

Tubman helped lead many freedom seekers to Canada, especially to St. Catharines, which was a famous terminal.

In her book *Tubman: Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad,* Rosemary Sadlier said it originated in the 1840s and got its name from a remark made by an angry, frustrated slave owner who was trying to catch runaway slaves.

The slave owner was amazed at how they seemed to vanish into thin air along the Ohio River. He exclaimed, "Those abolitionists must have a railroad somewhere underground."

In Sadlier's book, Tubman, being a former slave, knew firsthand about the cruelty of slavery. As a five-year-old, she was hired out by her master, Edward Brodas, to do work for other people. Brodas was paid by these people for her services.

According to Sadlier's information, she had to clean the house for the entire day with a minimal amount of food. Afterwards, she had to sit on the floor throughout the night and rock the baby to sleep.

However, being a slave, her own need for sleep was not taken into consideration by her mistress.

Furthermore, if the baby woke up during the night, she was savagely beaten about her body by her mistress.

She was scared for her life from these beatings.

As a result of these, and later experiences, growing up as a slave, she decided, as an adult, to run away and become a free person in the northern American states.

This she did escaping to Philadelphia although her first husband, John Tubman, didn't go with her. He told Tubman's mistress she had escaped.

She was remarried later in life to Nelson Davis.

Despite being rejected by her spouse, she didn't let this hurt get to her because she became more determined to assist others, especially her own people held in bondage.

Tubman, while risking her life on the Underground Railroad, was a conductor whose responsibility was to lead freedom seekers from one station to another, a very risky venture for everyone involved.

However, she became so skillful at it that she became a thorn in the side of many southern slave owners. A whopping bounty of $40,000 was put out on her head, dead or alive.

Tubman, runaway slaves and abolitionists working to free the slaves in the Underground Railroad, had to constantly be on the alert for bounty hunters.

These were ruthless, slave-hunting men who were hired to recapture runaway slaves. They even pursued runaway slaves into the northern states and Canada.

During the American Civil War, Tubman distinguished herself by becoming a cunning scout, nurse and spy for the Union forces. Her intelligence gathering proved to be invaluable for the Union army.

With the American Civil War raging in 1863, she organized an intelligence service composed of runaway slaves to lead the Union troops through the rough terrain of the American south.

These ex-slaves knew the countryside like "the back of their hands" and guided thousands of Union troops through dangerous enemy territory.

Tubman really made her mark, however, as a raider of southern slave plantations where she freed the slaves, burned Confederate food stocks and used her pistol and rifle to good measure against the slave owners.

According to Sadlier, Tubman's most famous raid occurred in 1863 on the Combahee River, South Carolina. Her mission was to destroy the plantations supplying food to the Confederate forces. She and her former slaves guided more than 300 Union troops through treacherous, mine-laden waters.

Furthermore, former slave field hands piloted the Union gunboats down the river to within striking distance of their targets.

When Tubman and the rest of the Union forces were in position, they launched a perfectly executed assault on the plantations. The results were devastating.

Many crops and buildings were burnt to the ground by the ex-slaves and Union soldiers, under the direction of Tubman. More than 750 slaves were freed.

Tubman was given the credit — and praised by the Union Army High Command — for planning and implementing a brilliant raid.

When the American Civil War ended with a Union victory in 1865, Tubman continued to help as many people as she could. She eventually established a home for elderly black people in 1908 in Auburn, N.Y.

She died there on March 10, 1913.

After doing all she did for her people, she earned the revered title they gave her, "Black Moses."

Photo: TUBMAN: Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad by Rosemary Sadlier.

HARRIET TUBMAN

Library keeps black history strong

Heritage recalled, myths dispelled, celebration's proceeds assist operations

By LAZARUS NATHANE
Staff Writer

NIAGARA FALLS — A number of black heritage sites in the Niagara Region are under the spotlight this month.

These include Anthony Burns' grave site and Victoria Lawn Cemetery on Queenston Street in St. Catharines.

Reverend Burns, the last person to be tried under the United States Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 in Massachusetts, was convicted and returned to slavery in Virginia.

Boston abolitionists, however, bought his freedom and educated him before he settled in St. Catharines.

Also, there's the Norval Johnson Heritage Library on Peer Street in Niagara Falls, the only black history library in the Niagara Region.

Its founder, Wilma Morrison, says it has a useful purpose as it helps to highlight black achievements that may otherwise remain unknown.

"It's important to keep history alive," she says. "No one should put down your ancestry. These are the people who helped to build the country."

The other usefulness of the library, she says, is in helping to clarify and dispel "certain myths" about blacks.

For example, she says, given there's little evidence slavery existed in Canada, it could have been impossible, therefore, early African-Canadians dependent on other people, as slaves did, to get by.

Although blacks came to Canada to escape slavery in the American south, she says most were able to gain employment and acquire property.

"Some became prominent members of the community and held public office."

About 70 per cent of the escapees, she says, returned to the United States at the end of its Civil War "primarily" to be reunited with their families.

The library opened its doors in March 1991 and was named after Norval Johnson, who lived between 1900 and 1981.

British Methodist Episcopal Church was a haven for Niagara's black community for 50 years

Photo by Lazarus Nathane

Johnson is credited, among other things, with "nearly" 50 years of serving the community, especially young people of Niagara Falls.

A Sunday School choir and music teacher, she at times "single-handedly" kept the neighboring British Methodist Episcopal Church in operation.

Johnson was also a member of the Cancer Society of Niagara.

Asked how the library keeps its head above water financially, Morrison said they've had "a wonderful response" from people in terms of fund-raising.

Some of the proceeds from this month's heritage celebrations will go toward the library and its cause, she says.

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SAC

Students pass vote for health care plan

Health and drug plan available for September students

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

On Feb. 10, Niagara College students voted to accept a Student Administrative Council (SAC) sponsored student health and drug plan. Of the 352 students who voted, 97 per cent were in favour. The coverage will be available with the new academic year in September.

Provided through ACL and Associates Ltd., the policy will pay 80 per cent of the cost of prescription drugs to a maximum $5,000 annually.

Tutoring expenses in case of illness causing missed classes will be covered to a total of $1,500. Emergency transportation expenses are paid up to $1,000 a year.

The cost for the plan is $4.56 per month per student.

If a student requires dental work as the result of an accident, costs will be reimbursed to a maximum of $2,000. Out-of-province coverage, in case of accident or sickness, is available to a maximum $2,000 annually.

Spouses, including common law and same sex, and children can be enrolled in the plan for additional fees. Dependent children under 21 or age 25 if attending school full-time are eligible too. Full family coverage will cost an additional $99.

The cost for the plan is $4.56 per month per student for a total of $54.71 per year. Payment will be made when tuition is paid. If students already have a similar plan, they can show proof of alternative coverage and receive a total refund.

ACL has been involved in student health and dental programs for five years and has partnerships with 21 colleges and universities in Ontario. It recently extended services to the Prairies and the East coast.

Its local office is located at 111 Fourth Ave., Suite 411, St. Catharines. Its phone number is 705-326-5490.

Information brochures were distributed at all campuses. Michael Berry, vice-president of campus events, informed members at the Feb. 5 Welland campus SAC meeting.

In other SAC news, The Student Centre is receiving $6,000 for roof repairs. Also a motion was passed to allot $200 for staff appreciation gifts.

The Cheap Date night scheduled for Feb. 23 was granted $3,000 for entertainment.

A motion was made for $700 to be put towards sumo suits for the WWW Pub Night on Feb. 14.

The meeting was held Feb. 17 for all campuses.

You've paid tuition, survey asks, 'Happy?'

120,000 students' satisfaction levels to set future rates

By ELISABETH IRWIN
By JENN MOIR
Staff Writers

Niagara College classrooms were bombarded by second-year marketing-research students conducting a survey on student satisfaction levels the week of Feb. 1 to Feb. 5.

At colleges across the province, about 120,000 students were asked by the Minister of Education and Training to participate in the first-of-its-kind survey.

"The survey is to access the student satisfaction rate and improve upon them. This is the first time this has ever been done across the province," said Brigitte Chiki, director of student services.

Two Niagara College students who helped conduct the survey were Andrew Pauls, 21, of Welland, and Mike Dibartolomuo, 20, of Port Colborne. Both are second-year Business Administration students and this was part of their marketing/research course. The class volunteered for the assignment.

"We are so grateful," said Chiki. "It was such a blessing to get that phone call saying 'we'll help.'"

Chiki said an important part of conducting the survey was involving the students. Before that, Chiki had "envisioned" going to the Student Administrative Council and having to recruit class representatives. "That would have been a more cumbersome process.

Every college hands in its survey results, and preliminary results will be released on March 15. The final results will released Dec. 31.

Chiki said Ontario colleges will follow benchmark rates in the future. For example, if there is a 60 per cent satisfaction rate when it comes to library services, future satisfaction rates will be measured against that benchmark.

"That's what we mean by rates. They're going to set rates or they're going to leave it up to each college to compare themselves to their last year's rate."

As for student response, Chiki said there were no students who refused to do it, but she did notice some students didn't complete the survey and others went through it rather quickly.

"Makes you wonder if they just kind of went down the middle on everything."

She said that's part of the surveying process and it's up to Compustat — the Toronto-based firm the colleges hired — to tabulate the results.

The survey covered all Niagara College campuses, about 4,500 students, except for first-term January start students. The students had to be enrolled in daytime full- or part-time post-secondary programs. The survey didn't cover continuing education students.

Chiki said four other surveys are also going on: one for graduates of colleges; one for employers of graduates; one for retention rates (how many students start programs versus how many finish); and graduate outcomes (how many graduates are working in their field).

"They're looking at the whole picture and it's all happening this year."

Cupid gets little help from friends

Dating Game for single students finds few lovelorn

By LISA HEYDON
Staff Writer

Is it a love connection? Hardly.

The Niagara College Student Administrative Council's (SAC's) version of the dating game was held Feb. 10 at After Hours pub on the Welland campus on Feb. 10.

The game, scheduled to start at 12:30 p.m., was delayed until 12:50 p.m. because of a lack of contestants.

Each player was chosen randomly by ballot. Once the game started, each contestant was allowed to ask six questions to a panel of three members of the opposite sex. Contestants were separated by a divider to ensure secrecy.

Each contestant received a gift bag, including prizes such as SAC merchandise, gift certificates from M.T. Bellies and tickets for the Molson Canadian Blind Date.

The lucky couple received a gift bag as well as an unenthusiastic handshake from his or her partner.

The game lasted two rounds before the date was over.

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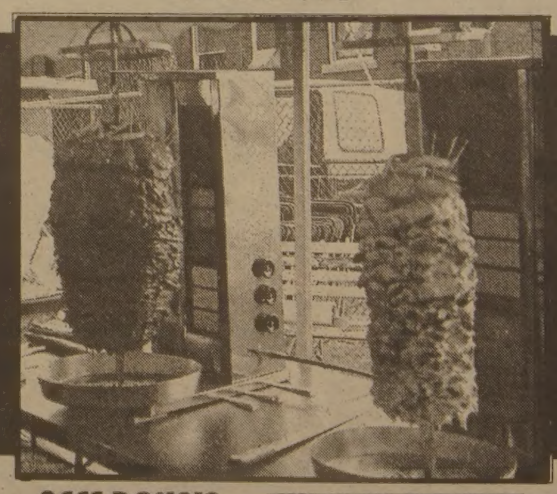
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Sports

Local skater has Olympic dreams

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

She's a rising star in the figure skating world.

Brianne Smith, 9, of Black Creek, skates with the Fort Erie Figure Skating Club and says she hopes to go to the Olympics one day.

She started skating three years ago and has won a first, a second and a third place at competitions.

"I enjoy it very much and I'm willing to do whatever it takes to succeed," said Smith, adding succeeding to her means to "gather speed, jump high and spin fast."

Practices are six days a week and range from a half an hour to an hour and a half a day. In addition to skating, Smith says, she takes tennis, golf, gymnastics and swimming lessons and attends Brownies.

BRIANNE SMITH

She says skating lessons are 15 minutes long and the rest of the time is spent practicing dancing and other skills which include skating on the edges of the skates to music and free skate, meaning jumps, spins and programs for competitions.

"No matter what place you come in, you're always a winner."

Her busy schedule doesn't leave a lot of time for her friends but she says, "I enjoy my sports and I'm willing not to play with my friends to do them."

Her mom, Sherry Smith, says skating is "very good for discipline and self-esteem," adding "she can go out in front of a crowd and not be intimidated. That will help her later in life."

Although it's time consuming, she says, her daughter is closer to the children she skates with than the children she goes to school with. "They're real supportive at competitions of each other," adding, "At their age I give them a lot of credit for putting in that much time."

Niagara loses playoff

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

Their season ends in a sweep.

The Niagara College women's volleyball team lost its quarter-final match against Oakville's Sheridan College 15-9, 15-6 and 15-10 at the Welland campus on Feb. 16.

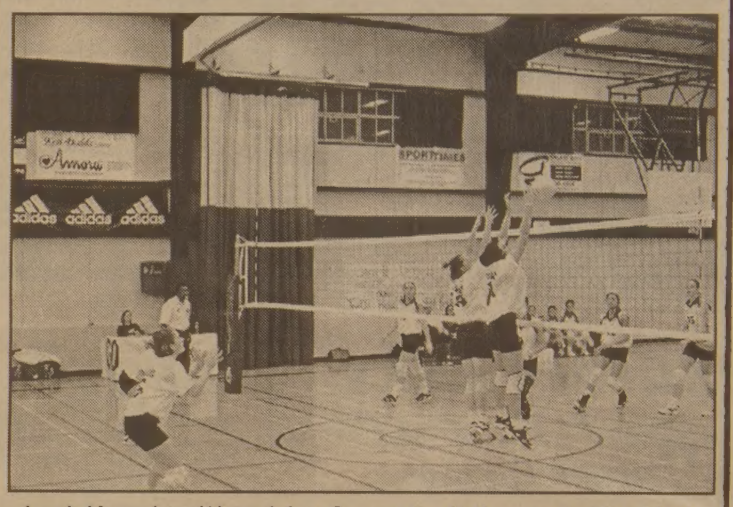
This loss ends the women's volleyball season.

Carolyn Schatz, head coach, said the Knights were "struggling," adding they were "outplayed" by Sheridan.

Leading the Knights in kills was Liana Collins with 13, followed by Michelle Stenton with five.

Stuffed blocks were controlled by Leah Keracher with four and Heather Richardson with two.

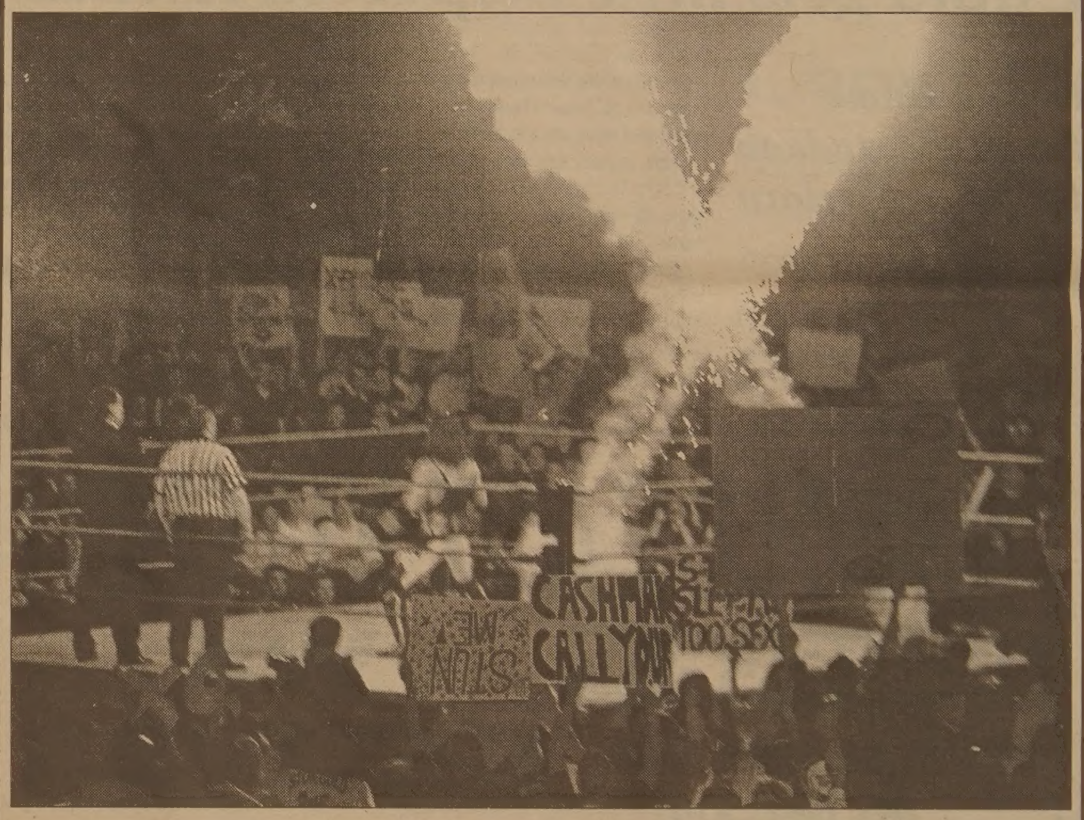
The men's volleyball team travels to Ottawa's Algonquin College for the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Championship tournament this weekend.

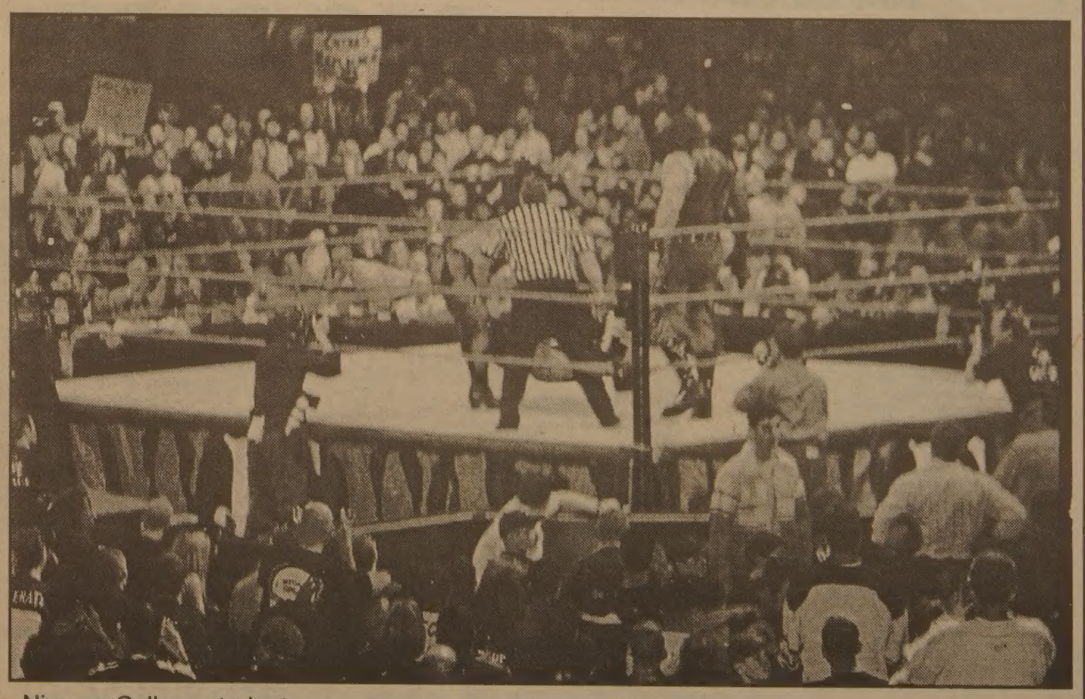


Leah Keracher (9) and Jen Carpenter (14) go up for the block during the women's quarter finals loss against Sheridan College of Oakville.

Photo by Amy Kaal

D-Generation





Niagara College students experienced a live World Wrestling Federation event at Raw is War at SkyDome in Toronto on Feb. 8. The trip was organized by the Student Administrative Council.

Photos by Lee Whitehead

Curlers advance

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Two out of three isn't bad!

The Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) Curling Regionals were held from Feb. 3 to 5 at the Welland Curling Club.

Two of Niagara College's curling teams advanced to the OCAA Championships.

The women's team, which featured skip Melanie Rodrigue, vice Jacqueline Smith, second Sharilyn Johnson and lead Leah Farnan, received an automatic bye through the regionals into the provincials. However, the team did compete in the regionals and finished with a 1-2 record.

The mixed team, led by skip Jeff Bolan and including teammates vice Sheri Gruhl, second David Salter and lead Catherine Peter, finished second at the bonspiel, with a 2-1 record.

Unfortunately, the men's team was unable to complete the hat trick, finishing outside the top three in their division and missing the chance to advance.

The OCAA championships were hosted by Hamilton's Mohawk College at the Glendale Curling Club on Feb. 17 and 18 and wrap up today.

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Sports

Canada has new world fighting champion

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

The Niagara Region can boast of producing a world champion in the deadly martial art of Jui Jitsu.

David Dayboll, 32, of Port Colborne, is the light heavyweight full contact Jui Jitsu World Champion.

As a light heavyweight, he fought for the title in the 180- to 190-pound range.

His title is officially recognized by the International Sports Jui Jitsu Association.

Jui Jitsu is an ancient Japanese martial art involving a lot of wrist and arm locks, grappling and throws. It also has ground techniques in which a practitioner is taught to defend himself against a standing opponent.

Dayboll won the prestigious title last year in Burnaby, B.C., when he defeated Kari Webber, a fighter from New Zealand.

He said Webber was a "very good opponent" who did a lot of techniques during the fight.

Dayboll said Webber was a "very tough fighter" who had a belt black in the vicious martial art of Brazilian Jui Jitsu.

"He is the Brazilian Jui Jitsu Champion of New Zealand and had an impressive record of 20 victories, zero losses in No Holds Barred fighting," Dayboll said.

He said Webber was a "very good" Vale Tu Do fighter, which is a gladiatorial type of combat in which the warriors fight in a cage wearing four-ounce gloves.

Dayboll said he won the fight by a technical knockout in the third round by punching in the face.

"I cut him above the right eye with a right cross, which forced the doctor to stop the fight."

Dayboll said under the rules, two minutes is allowed between rounds to let the doctor attend to fighter's wounds.

"It was bleeding very badly."

He said during the third round, he kneed Webber in the solar plexus, which helped to take the fight out of him.

"I heard him go 'uhhh!' . . . That was nice," Dayboll said.

The contest was stopped and the referee raised Dayboll's hand in victory.

Canada had a new world fighting champion.

He said he underwent four months of brutal physical training to getting ready for the title fight.

"My jui jitsu teacher, Marcel Poirer, and my boxing instructor, Blair Phillips, really prepared me for the bout I had and the Brazilian jui jitsu fighter from Toronto also helped me a lot for the fight."

Dayboll said training for with the Brazilian jui jitsu men his ground techniques "became unbelievable."

He said 80 per cent of Brazilian jui jitsu training is on the ground.

"Brazilian jui jitsu is such an incredible style because they just seem to flow into their techniques with a natural rhythm."

He said Phillips helped him to develop his boxing stance and his punching techniques.

Dayboll said he started doing martial arts in 1994 by doing a variety of fighting styles such as taekwondo, kung fu and karate.

He did taekwondo for three years but a short time afterward he started doing jui-jitsu at the now-defunct Dragon's Den in Welland.

Eventually, he joined the Black Panthers Jui Jitsu Club in downtown Welland and began training with Poirer.

Dayboll said he likes jui jitsu because of the grappling and throwing techniques in it.

Under Poirer's teaching, he said he went from strength to strength with his jui jitsu training.

Through hard work and dedication, he now has won the world title.

Unfortunately, Dayboll cannot fight professionally anymore because he suffered serious injuries to both eyes.

"I've got two detached retinas and I've have to get my right eye surgically fixed and my left eye needs laser surgery.

"I've always had bad eyes."

He can't fight anymore as a result of the blows he has taken during the fight and all of the years of sparring.

"I can't take punches to the head anymore on advice from my doctor."

However, he said he doesn't regret the experience of fighting for the world title.

Joseph may lead Leafs to Stanley's promised land

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

I've always wanted to say this in a column and I believe the time has arrived.

The Toronto Maple Leafs will win the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup this year.

Sure, go ahead and laugh. Then sit back and listen while I list for you the reasons behind my bold prediction.

The most important ingredient for Stanley Cup victory is a great goaltender, which the Leafs have in Curtis Joseph. Cujo has faced the hard grind of a grueling play-off before. His heroics have carried middle-of-the-pack teams into the quarterfinals twice before.

In 1993, while with the St. Louis Blues, he faced an onslaught from the Chicago Blackhawks and the Leafs. While both teams were far superior to the Blues, Joseph played magnificently in beating Chicago and taking the Leafs to seven games before being eliminated.

In 1998, Joseph stood out again, this time leading the Edmonton Oilers past the heavily favoured Colorado Avalanche in the first round before losing out to the Dallas Stars.

When Joseph is on his game, there's nobody better and that includes Buffalo Sabres' Dominik Hasek, Colorado's Patrick Roy and New Jersey Devils' Martin Brodeur.

The Leafs also have a strong defensive unit, led by Brian Berard, Jason Smith and Dmitri Yushkevich. While it is true the Leafs' defence corps allows more shots than previous Leaf teams, this group isn't afraid to knock down opposing forwards when they get too close to Joseph. It's a tougher group.

On offence, the Leafs pack a punch, led by captain Mats Sundin, who is joined by Steve Thomas, Derek King, Sergei Berezin and Mike Johnson.

As for toughness, Tie Domi and Kris King can provide plenty.

The only thing the Leafs lack is a proven veteran who has led a team deep into the playoffs.

Only Thomas and Joseph have been farther than the first round of the playoffs.

They need someone to lead them. There are plenty who qualify on other teams, who won't make the playoffs but who could be added near the trading deadline.

That someone might be Vancouver Canucks captain Mark Messier, who led both the Oilers and New York Rangers to championships. Perhaps it is New York Islanders centre Trevor Linden, who led the Canucks to the finals in 1994.

How about — dare I say it? — Tampa Bay's Wendel Clark, who led the Leafs to the semi-finals in 1993 and 1994.

Whoever it is, the Leafs need someone capable of carrying a team for two months of hockey playoff action. That's all that's missing from making this team a legitimate Stanley Cup threat.

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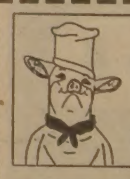
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Entertainment

He has been musician for 25 years

By SANJA NOVAKOVIC
Staff Writer

Rock 'n roll makes his life complete.

Daryl Gray, 39, of St. Catharines, is working in Mr. Coco's restaurant and bar in Niagara Falls as a solo musician and in the Lenex and Helix band as a bass guitar player.

Gray has been a musician for 25 years. His musical education was earned, he says, by "going on the road."

"It's like riding a bike. You are learning by an experience. If you fall off, you only fall off once because you will not do the same mistake again."

Performing solo shows is different from playing in the band as part of the group, he said. "Playing with a band, it's like you are part of the puzzle. If one of the pieces is missing, the picture can't be real."

Gray said he "loves" his job. His goal in life was to become a musician. "Lots of working hours, lots of driving, lack of sleep and separation from my family are bad sides of my job."

This father of five children, although he doesn't have regular working hours, always finds the time to spend with his children and wife.

'Music keeps me going and helps me to find the way out from the problems I get in.'
—Daryl Gray

Gray is a member of Lenex, a rock 'n roll band from the late '70s and early '80s, which had a reunion last year. Rock 'n roll and friendship were the bonds for the band's members through the years they were separated. Each has a career and many years of experience. They've all become members of different bands.

Rick Rose, 35, of Niagara Falls, an acoustic and rhythm guitar player, became a staff writer for SONY, a music production house, and a member of the Honeymoon Suite band.

Jonny Dee, of Toronto, a singer, is a member of Honeymoon Suite.

Pat Cass, of Niagara Falls, a drum player, is a member of the White Frost band.

Terry Praccia, of Welland, a lead guitar player, is a member of the Coney Hatch band.

Fred Rose of Niagara Falls, a keyboard player, is a member of the Honeymoon Suite.

"Music keeps me going and helps me to find out the way out from the problems I get in," said Gray.

Major Canadian rock band at college on Feb. 23

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

It's a mystery.

Niagara College's After Hours will play host to a major Canadian rock band on Feb. 23 as part of a promotion with Molson Canadian.

The event is part of Molson's Blind Date series but on a smaller scale, says Dave Rapelje, manager of After Hours, "hence the play on words 'Cheap Date.'"

Molson keeps the identity of the band a secret. Despite what you may have heard, nobody on campus knows who the band is. Not even Rapelje.

"I keep hearing 54-40. I, at one point, heard Stompin' Tom Connors," he says. "Another band I heard kicked around was the Tea Party."

The band being talked about most is Big Sugar.

"For a day it was listed on the Big Sugar itinerary on their Web site . . . Two days later the show date had changed and they were playing The Drink in London. Now there's no show date," he says, adding Big Sugar is opening for the Rolling Stones the following night, which reduces the likelihood of them appearing at Niagara.

"The reality of it is I can't see them trucking down to Welland to play a college gig when they're going to be playing one of the biggest shows of their career," he says.

In the past, Blind Date shows have been played by the likes of Metallica, Stone Temple Pilots and the Tragically Hip, but don't hold your breath for a band that big.

"Those bands are making a quarter of a million dollars plus on some of those shows, so obviously it's reasonable to assume it won't be one of them," he says.

Rapelje says the people at Molson "are notorious for having fun with these things" and even he won't find out the band's identity until sound check the afternoon of the show.

Those attending will have to wait until the band hits the stage — no educated guesses based on the guitar's colour.

"From what I've been told, once the band's equipment is all on stage it'll be covered with black cloth," he says.

"The one thing they have told me is that it is a Canadian rock band this time, not an alternative or Celtic crossover," he says, referring to last year's appearance of Ashley MacIsaac for the first Niagara College Cheap Date.

Those attending may have trouble recognizing the pub. Rapelje says all the existing sound and lighting equipment will be removed and replaced with touring gear and all the furniture and pool tables will be taken out.

A deck with couches will be put in where the booths normally are. Everyone in attendance will have a chance to win a spot on the deck, complete with, food, drinks and a hostess. There will be other giveaways throughout the night.

Two Niagara College students will be opening the show with the national anthem, a tradition at After Hours.

"One guy plays really good acoustic guitar and the other guy plays harmonica. It'll be neat. A couple of Niagara College students can say they opened for a really big band," Rapelje says.

No matter who the band turns out to be, he says "it's an opportunity to come out, have a great night and see some great entertainment."

Passes are up for grabs from the Student Administrative Council, both campus pubs, the college residence, the college radio station (CRNC) and the *Niagara News*.

The *Niagara News* has 10 passes to give away. To win, be one of the first 10 people to the newsroom (S212, Welland campus) with the latest copy of the *Niagara News* and proper student Niagara College identification on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at noon sharp.

Dave Rapelje, manager of After Hours pub, shows off passes for the Cheap Date concert Feb. 23.
Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

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Entertainment

Monty Python influences comic

IAN SIROTA

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

The audience is a major participant in a live comedic show, but the crowd at the After Hours pub on the Welland campus proved to be stale and more interested, apparently, in slapstick humour.

On Feb. 3, the all-ages comedy night was packed and Yuk Yuk's had sent two successful comedians.

The feature act was Ron Vaudry, 42, of Montreal, a favourite at the International Comedy Festival Just for Laughs and The Edinborough Comedy Festival.

Vaudry has been a success at major comedy clubs and universities throughout Canada, the United States, England and Scotland.

Vaudry is a thought-provoking, political and social observation comedian.

"It's more interesting, more relevant and you can't help making fun of buffoonery," said Vaudry. "I grew up on the Marx Brothers and Monty Python.

"I was born, looked around and said, 'You can't be serious,' so I became a comedian, but I guess the real answer is that I was walking down Crescent Street in Montreal and I saw a new comedy club called Stitches, so I auditioned and started performing."

He performed at the Welland campus pub last year and has been with the Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club for 19 years.

The opening act, Ian Sirota, 32, of Montreal, was a feature act at the 1997 Molson Canadian Toronto Comedy Festival and has opened for many famous comics, such as Dennis Leary, Jon Stewart, Norm McDonald and Harland Williams.

Eye Magazine describes him as "a cross between Dennis Leary and Don Rickles."

Sirota is the owner of Blockhead, an independent Canadian production company. He lives in New York and said he hopes in the future to be writing sketches for television's *Saturday Night Live*.

Sirota and some friends went on the *Jerry Springer Show* , where they pretended to be involved in a controversy. In turn, Springer sued for $80,000.

The law suit wasn't successful.

After the show at Niagara, Sirota said he was disappointed "the crowd was not very interactive."

"There are only so many jokes about pot that a comedian can use. My material is more for an older crowd, I guess," he said.

The standup acts were clean and satirical.

"You have good shows and bad shows. It all depends on the crowd," said Sirota.

Singer here Feb. 24

By LISA HEYDON
Staff Writer

Jessica Schoenberg began listening to bands such as Boston and Led Zepplin when she was young. Over the years she's done a lot of growing up. Just how much will be evident when she performs at Niagara College's Glendale campus on Feb. 23 and at Welland on Feb. 24.

Schoenberg, 29, started her career at age nine. She says her parents were "heavy into acting," so they pushed her in that direction. Her career began when she starred in a children's television series, *Harriet's Magic Hats*.

She also starred with Paul Gross, from *Due South*, in a made-for-TV movie called *Lisa*. She says when she was nine years old, acting wasn't what she wanted. "I couldn't play with my friends."

As her acting days ended, she attended the University of Alberta for six and a half years and received her business degree. She then launched her independent record label, Gypsy Records, to pursue a career as a musician. The label has since released three of Schoenberg's records, **Sounds Like a Plan** in 1994, **Self-titled** in 1996 and **Tiniest of Bones** in 1997, and will soon release a fourth album.

Schoenberg's second and third albums featured her and a band. She has since gone solo. Because Schoenberg is a singer/songwriter she says she found the band drained her lyrics, making it hard for people to hear the meaning behind her songs. Schoenberg is known for emphasizing her lyrics.

"I'm a story teller . . . the lyrics got lost in a four-piece rock band."

Although Schoenberg is an independent artist, she has many accomplishments. In 1997 she was awarded Best Alternative/New Music Artist on Record, and again in 1998. She also had the honour of playing alongside bands such as Great Big Sea, Blue Rodeo and 54-40. However, she hasn't had the opportunity to play with many female artists.

"Not a lot of bands are fronted by women," says Schoenberg. "It's harder being a woman at a show. Other guys treat me different, same with the venues."

Schoenberg's influences are constantly changing. She says she's influenced by other singer/songwriters with whom she plays.

Despite receiving an offer from a label in Los Angeles, she'll be entering the studio the first week of March to record her fourth independent record. The album will contain 14 songs and be released by the end of March or mid-April. The record will include performances by an electric guitarist, percussionist and bass player.

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

Thank You Students!

Office of the President

I would like to extend my thanks for participating in the Student Satisfaction Survey conducted earlier this month.

Your views of your experience at Niagara College, along with feedback we are gathering from graduates and employers, will help us build on our successes and improve where necessary.

As you know, the survey is part of a series of five Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which all Ontario colleges are implementing. Ultimately, a percentage of our provincial funding will depend on our performance as measured by these KPIs.

My thanks to the faculty who gave up precious class time for the survey, and a special thank you to those students in the Business Administration - Marketing (Co-op) program who helped co-ordinate and implement the survey. Your involvement was vital to students' participation. Congratulations to all for a job extremely well done.

Sincerely,

Dan Patterson
President

STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

International

Korean immigrant accustomed to Canada

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

He's started his new life in Canada and is still getting to know his new home.

Sean Choi, 26, of St. Catharines, a second-year student of the Business-Retail Management program at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, said his first impression about Canada was that it was "strange" because "everything" was new to him."

Born in South Korea, his real name is Seungyun Choi.

He said he didn't realize his family was moving to Canada until two months before they left.

"I was really surprised, and even shocked, to hear that we had to leave Korea."

He added, "At the time, two kinds of feelings switched around in my heart: sadness about leaving my homeland and, on the other hand, excitement about challenging a new world."

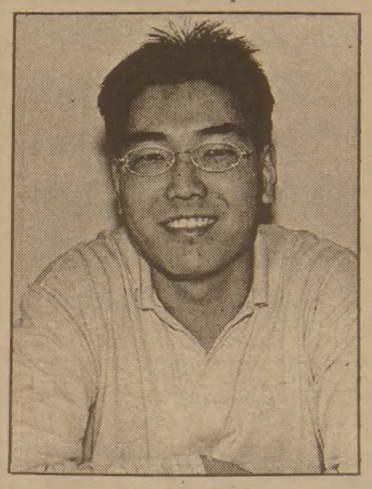
Having immigrated to Canada in 1990, his family has moved throughout Canada to such cities as to Toronto, London, Chatham and then, finally, to Vancouver in 1994.

"The reason my family floated around was to find a better place for starting their business," said Choi, adding his parents run a Japanese restaurant in Vancouver.

He mentioned he had worked for a Japanese restaurant in Vancouver for three years.

"I can cook various kinds of Japanese food, like sushi, so some people call me a sushi chef."

In addition to working as a cook, he said he also has experience as a waiter, dishwasher, cashier and tour guide.



SEAN CHOI

"I thought working is worthier than studying at the time."

According to Sean, he faced a turning point when he moved to Ontario alone after having had conflicts with his parents.

"Eventually, I decided to come here (Ontario) to change my relaxed life because I had become worried about my future."

He added he first started taking night courses at Niagara College.

"I found out getting higher education would help me make more money and have a better life."

When asked what's the hardest part of living in Canada, he responded, "Speaking English is my major concern. I wish I could speak English more fluently."

"Sometimes it's not easy to live here because of language and cultural difference. I'm still adapting to the Canadian lifestyle and culture."

For him, he said his belief in Christianity means a lot.

"I think I found out the truth about religion because I had a spiritual experience. Afterwards, my personality was changed, and I could see the world totally different from the one I used to know."

"For me, knowing myself comes first in my life. Without knowing yourself, I believe life is like an empty brain or sandwich with nothing inside."

Finally, he described his future as a "businessman who runs a lot of franchise restaurants with his parents across Canada."

Equal relationship between men, women

International Women's Week

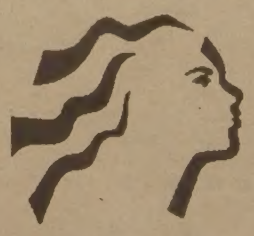
By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Women and men can be regarded as the wings of the bird of humanity, and if one of the bird's wings is broken, the bird can't fly.

Throughout the world, action is being taken to work towards the establishment of true equality between the genders.

"The aim of International Women's Week is to improve the postion of women in society, to celebrate how far we've come and to recognize how far we have to go," said Deborah Toth, a representative of the Niagara Regional International Women's Day committee.

This year Women's Week is Feb. 27 to March 6.



Although it commemorates women's accomplishments in the community Women's Week isn't just for women.

During the week, activities, workshops and entertainment sponsered by local organizations will enkindle interest, educate and fascinate people of all ages and genders.

One activity features Ann Duffy, professor of sociology and co-author of *Family Violence*, along with her co-author, Julianne Momirov, addressing the issue of "Are we winning the struggle against violence against women?"

The Women's Studies class lecture will be open to the public at Brock University in St. Catharines at 5:30 p.m. in lecture room 325.

The ninth annual Women's Day Festival, will be held at St. Tomas Church on Ontario St., in St. Catharines. It begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27, and will feature "sisterLune," a female band growing in popularity.

To increase community awareness and to raise money for Nova House in Niagara Falls and for the Women's Places in St. Catharines and Welland, three local women's shelters, a fund-raiser called "Strike Out Violence in Our Communities" is scheduled for March 3 at the Parkway Lanes on Ontario Street in St. Catharines, from 3-5:30.

This is the committee's way to "show support to women who show support to women."

A bowling tournament among the Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, Port Colborne and Lincoln city councils also has attracted attention from various local organizations and post-secondary schools.

A banquet will follow the tournament. Tickets cost $50, which covers the tournament, the banquet and a presentation given by the professor who received the Best Professor in Ontario Award, Professer Dr. Mary Frances Richardson. Anyone interested in entering a team of four people and/or attending the banquet should telephone Deborah Toth at 1-905-374-1010 for more information.

Valentine's Day together in Canada

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

International students enjoyed a Canadian Valentine's Day.

A Valentine's Day party for international students was held at Niagara College's After Hours pub on Feb. 12.

There were about 40 to 45 people attending including English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers.

The party started with a dinner. It was catered by the Venice Pizza and Pasta Bar, at on the corner of Woodlawn Road and First Avenue in Welland.

For the first event, students were given Valentine's Day quiz sheets with eight questions on the history and traditions of Valentine's Day.

The winner of the quiz was Yukiko Iwasaki, 22, of Japan, an ESL student.

The Social Committee for international and ESL students also prepared door prizes, which included T-shirts, CDs and glass vases. Three different students won these.

In addition, two angel-shaped chocolate prizes were given to English poem winners, Sang-Joon Hong, 24, of South Korea, for his romantic poem and Tomoko Yoshino, 19, of Japan, for her humorous poem.

Joanne Klassen, 24, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, an ESL teacher, said "For this time, more international music was played, which is better than other parties held before."

"I hope more people will be coming for any get-togethers next time," Klassen added.

"I'm really enjoying the party, especially dancing," said Jo Wang, 28, of Taiwan, an ESL student, adding she "hopes everybody comes up on the stage and dances."

The highlight of the event was dancing, which included the limbo, the Macarena and paired dancing on the stage.

The party went until midnight.

Klassen sent special thanks to Gerald (the DJ), Christine (After Hours staff), Carolyn, Lindon and the Social Committee for a great evening.

German Millan, 28, of Colombia, shows Mie Suzuki, 26, of Japan, how to dance the merengue.

Photo by Mun-Hee Shin

SAC sponsors major week

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Become sexually aware during Sexual Awareness Week beginning Monday.

There are Student Administrative Council (SAC) events at all three of Niagara College's campuses.

All three campuses are taking part in the "blind date" at Welland's After Hours Pub. Jamie Ebsary, Welland's SAC president says, she thinks they will use a cellular phone as the grand prize for that event.

At Welland's campus on Monday, SAC will have information booths set up and there will be T-shirts and whistle giveaways all week.

At the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls on Monday, they are having sex comics, Kerri Talmage and Shannon Layerty, from 12:45 p.m. until 1:45 p.m., in the Lecture Theatre and giveaways during the week, Michael Chorney, V.P. of campus events.

At the Glendale campus, they will have giveaways and other events during the week, says Chris Williams, the office manager for the Glendale and the Maid of the Mist's SAC.

Controversial tapes about to be unveiled

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

A woman's greatest fear is about to unfold.

Donna French, of St. Catharines, is now facing what she had hoped and prayed she never would.

After the devastating abduction and murder of her daughter, Kristen, Donna and her family were thrown into a life-changing horror story all too close to home.

Now six years later, one man threatens to bring all the pain to the front lines of the French family again.

Stephen Williams is facing charges for allegedly witnessing the videotapes in which Kristen French and Leslie Mahaffey were seen being assaulted. He wrote a book called *Invisible Darkness,* which tells the entire Paul Bernardo story. During the trial, viewing of the videotapes was restricted to the judge, jury and lawyers, but accusations are being made Williams had access to them after the trial.

Williams' lawyer says that in order for his client to have a fair trial, the videotapes need to be viewed in court.

Since the trial began, Donna has fought to keep the videotapes out of the public domain in order to preserve her daughter's dignity.

Donna says she is trying to keep people aware of what happened before, during and after Kristen was abducted, by holding seminars all over Canada to tell her story. These are the events of which she speaks.

Sadly, on Thursday, April 16, 1992, Kristen never came home from her St. Catharines' school. After contacting friends and family and still not finding her, the family called the police. The investigation into her disappearance took on a heightened urgency.

There was no sleep for the family that night or for many nights afterwards.

The Niagara Regional Police Service set up the Green Ribbon Task Force. It was to become their support, and an important source to help the Frenches in their ordeal.

Inspector Vince Bevan, head of the task force, was introduced to the family on Easter Monday.

Donna said she remembers feeling intimidated by him, but right away she knew if anyone could find their daughter, this would be the man.

The agony lasted for two weeks.

On April 3, a young girl's body was found in Burlington. No identification was available. Their hours of waiting were filled with prayer and fear.

Later, Bevan arrived. It was Kristen's body.

Sexually assaulted. Strangled.

Donna said, "There was no way my daughter could be dead, but the pain didn't change the facts. Kristen was gone." In minutes, their family was crushed.

The news spread. The media arrived. After Kristen's body was found, the media was full of "speculation, distortion and complete untruths."

Donna said, "The police were a strong support, but the media did not respect our privacy. They did not give us any time to grieve for our loss."

In February 1993, Donna received a telephone call at work from a detective asking her if she could get in touch with her husband Doug and meet him at their house. The officer informed them an arrest was about to be made. That's all they could be told at the time.

Once again, all they could do was wait. It was about three hours later Bevan came to tell them what happened. They were in disbelief that not only was the arrested man living in St. Catharines, but there was a woman involved. Donna said it made her feel as if it were the "ultimate betrayal."

"It tore me up to know that Kristen had been so close to home and yet we couldn't find her or do anything to help her," said Donna.

Paul Bernardo was charged with the Scarborough rapes. Three months later, the charges for Kristen's and Leslie Mahaffey's murders were laid.

Bernardo's home was searched.

"Worst of all, videotapes of Bernardo forcing our daughter and other victims to do sexual acts were spoken of. I prayed for the police to find them. I feared that kind of material getting into the hands of pornography dealers where Kristen and the other girls would lose any sense of dignity they had."

The search lasted for three months. No videotapes were found and not as much evidence as police had hoped for was found either.

Shortly after, police told the couple a plea bargain had been struck and Karla Homolka, Bernardo's ex-wife, would walk in 12 years.

"I was devastated. I knew that Kristen's life was worth more than that. It went against everything we believed the justice system stood for. I felt like I was letting Kristen down," said Donna.

As the trial neared, they knew they'd have to find out the details of what happened to their daughter. They didn't want to hear those details for the first time in court surrounded by strangers. They heard the details of the case from the Crown before the trial. They were mortified.

"I didn't know such evil could exist," said Donna.

Homolka's trial was short. It was sensational for the media. They were everywhere.

In September 1994, during a court appearance, Ken Murray, Bernardo's lawyer, announced he had the videotape evidence. He had had them prior to Homolka's deal. He turned them over to the court and withdrew from the case. Everyone was stunned. The Frenches were told the videotapes would be used in court. Their worst fear was now a reality.

The defence wanted to use the tapes to plea bargain Bernardo's charge to second-degree murder.

They were fairly confident the tapes would not be shown publicly. They were sure no judge would deem them fit. They tapes were child pornography, in Donna's eyes.

The Frenches got a lawyer. Donna was appalled that in her own daughter's murder trial, and on an issue with such fundamental importance, they had no right to be heard. In order to speak to the judge, they had to request intervenor status. All they were asking was to have the viewing of the videotapes restricted.

Finally the decision came. The charge was to be first-degree murder. The videotapes were to be viewed only by the Crown, jury, judge and defence. It would protect Kristen.

The preliminary hearing was set for April 1995, but that process was waived. The trial date was set. Then there was a change of venue. Finally, the trial began in May 1995.

When Bernardo walked in, Donna said she could feel her stomach churn and her heart stop. After the long day of court, Donna said she was "totally drained and emotionally battered and bruised."

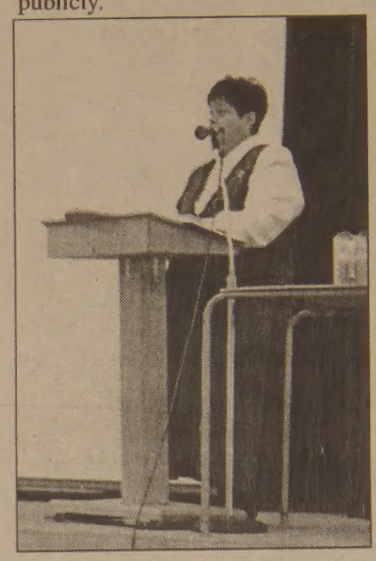
That was the stage for the days to come. Every day of the trial was the same. The court heard details that Donna could barely sit through.

When the time came for Homolka to testify, Donna said the accused "strutted into the courtroom, sat on the witness chair, tossed back her hair and began her testimony without a trace of embarrassment or remorse."

The police were constantly trying to get Donna to concentrate on the fact Homolka's testimony was helping to put Bernardo away. Donna said it didn't take her long to realize Homolka "knew exactly what she had been doing" and had no remorse for having participated in the crimes.

Prior to the trial, the Frenches asked the videos not be shown publicly.

The media didn't agree so they hired lawyers. Then, adding insult to injury, the judge ruled the videotapes could be heard, if not viewed, publicly.



The family had lost.

Donna and Doug were not present during the videotape evidence. They decided Kristen wouldn't want them to see it. They had fought hard to protect their daughter's memory but were ignored. The judge allowed a court recorder to read the transcripts of the tapes to the media.

To this day, Donna thanks the police for their overwhelming support and all those who grieved with the family in their great loss.

Donna said not a day goes by that she doesn't have thoughts of Kristen or ache to hold her.

The Frenches are actively striving to change the laws that don't grant victims privacy. They are working to change how the law allows murderers, such as Bernardo, to request parole after 15 years.

In July 1993, Homolka pled guilty to manslaughter in the death of Kristen and Leslie.

In September 1995, Bernardo was found guilty of forceable confinement, sexual assault and first-degree murder in both the girls' deaths. He was also found guilty of manslaughter in the death of Tammy Homolka, Karla's sister, after he raped her and she died choking on her own vomit.

Donna says she will continue to fight to keep the videotapes from ever being shown again.

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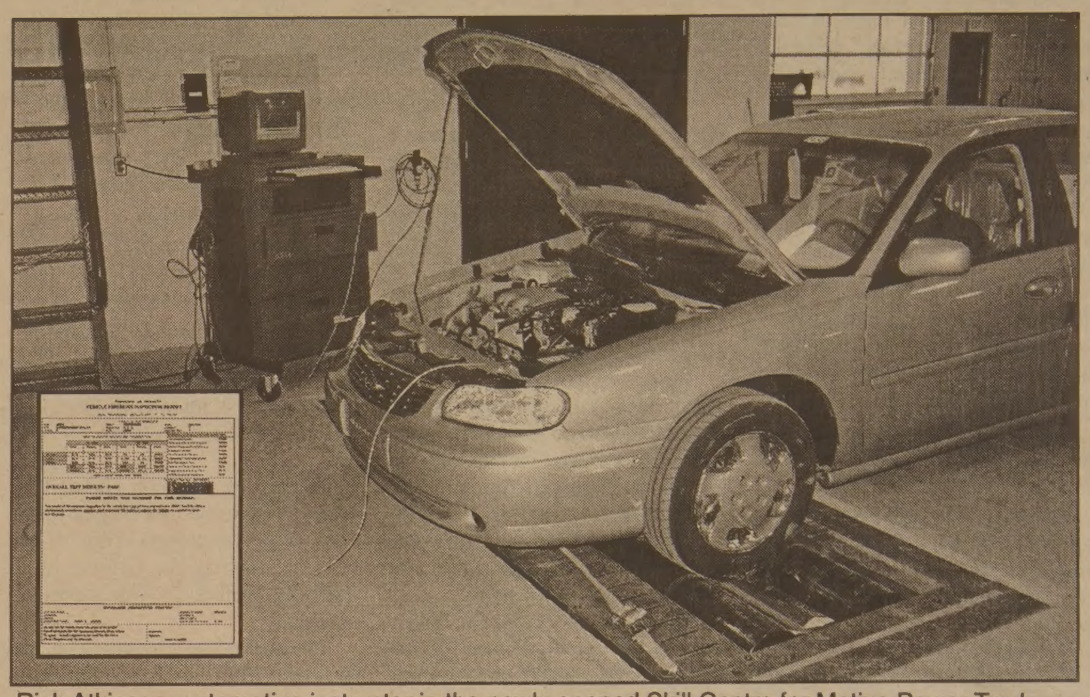
Eye On Niagara

Emissions testing to arrive in Welland in 2001

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer



Rick Atkinson, automotive instructor in the newly opened Skill Centre for Motive Power Trades, tests a 1998 Chevrolet Malibu for emissions on a dynamometer. The inset photo shows an actual computer generated Drive Clean report stating the Malibu passed emissions testing.

Photo by Aaron Beaudoin

A clean environment comes at a cost. Just how much will soon be determined.

Ontario's Drive Clean program, introduced in January, will be a major factor.

The Drive Clean program requires mandatory testing of vehicle emissions for automobiles more than three years old, but less than 20. Vehicles must be properly maintained to meet emissions standards to remain on the road.

Whether your vehicle is governed by the program depends on where you live and the age of your vehicle.

The test takes no more than 20 minutes and will cost no more than $30, plus applicable taxes, a Ministry of Transportation report states.

"It's the best scenario around," said Dave Spear. He's the co-ordinator of the Motive Power Training Integrated Manufacturing and Skill Training Division at Niagara College's Welland campus and owner of a Fort Erie automotive repair shop.

In addition, all Ontario trucks and buses weighing more than 4,500 kilograms must pass the test annually. Out-of-province trucks will be subject to random spot checks.

Exhaust from heavy-duty vehicles will be tested for opacity, the amount of dust-like particles vented by tailpipe emissions.

The program will cut smog-causing pollutants by up to 22 per cent in the program area, said the MTO report.

"In Ontario, the largest single domestic source of smog is vehicle emissions," said the report.

Recent improvements to exhaust system technology have helped reduce pollution from each vehicle, but the number of automobiles on the road is expected to increase. The Drive Clean program is tailored to deal with this issue by implementing mandatory testing.

This is how the program works. After receiving a mailed notice from the MTO, vehicle owners have 90 days to report to an accredited Drive Clean facility. A specially-trained inspector will drive the vehicle onto a treadmill-like device called a dynamometer.

By placing a probe in the tailpipe, information is sent to a computer, which measures the amount of nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide, all of which are harmful to the environment and health.

Following the test, drivers will be given a computer-generated report stating whether the vehicle passed or failed.

If the vehicle failed the initial test, owners are given three options to make the necessary repairs.

They may make the changes themselves, take the vehicle to any local garage, or go to an accredited Drive Clean facility.

The Ontario government has placed a $200 limit on the first-time repairs required for license renewal if a vehicle fails its first emission test. Although drivers have the option of where to take their vehicle for repairs, the tests must be completed by an accredited Drive Clean facility to qualify for the $200 cap.

The cost of retesting is no more than $15 plus taxes.

Spear said Ontario has learned a lot since British Columbia began its emissions program.

"(This test) will pick out the real bad infractions, meaning it won't destroy people," he said.

"One thing you have to be aware of is if you went out here into the parking lot and took every car at Niagara College today, it's conceivable that 75 per cent of the cars might not pass 100 per cent. Now how many people at Niagara College have an extra $300 or $400?"

Spear said if the province had used its original test, it would have cost consumers a lot more.

Automotive part-maker AC Delco uses the college's facility to train technicians about the Drive-Clean program.

Spear said he sees other provinces, as well as the United States, following Ontario's example.

Phase One of the program began in January in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Wentworth area. In January 2001, Phase Two will bring the program to Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Welland, Barrie, Brantford, Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener, London, Peterborough, Sarnia-Clearwater, Waterloo and Windsor.

The following will help you determine if your vehicle is to be tested during Phase One of the program in 1999:

- If you live in the Hamilton Wentworth, Metro Toronto and the regions of Peel, Halton, Durham and York
- If your birth date is between April 1 and Dec. 31
- If your vehicle is more than three years old, but less than 20, and
- If your vehicle is an even-year model.

If you qualify in any of these categories you will receive a notice in the mail about 90 days before your license plate renewal date.

To find out more information on Ontario's Drive Clean program call toll free 1-888-758-2999.

In addition, drivers may call their local CAA branch to receive a referral on accredited Drive Clean facilities.

Learn more about yourself, have fun doing it

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

The Winter Wilderness Adventure program is a general elective at Niagara College that gives students the opportunity to have fun while learning.

Valerie Grabove, professor in the Foundations and Preparatory Studies Division, says there are a lot of opportunities and different kinds of learning with this course.

She says the course is divided into three units. The first is called the shrinking wilderness. "Students explore issues related to the environment," she says, adding, "the objective is to explore some of those issues from a non-urban perspective."

The second is personal development and team building. Grabove says "challenging oneself and perhaps experiencing personal firsts" are part of this unit.

The third unit is outdoor education and activities.

She says, "We're looking at elements related to enjoying what Canada has to offer."

Grabove says learning to snowshoe, to maintain stamina over a 17-kilometre trek, to build quinje huts, snow shelters and sleeping outdoors are part of this unit.

The Winter Wilderness Adventure program is held during the Break Week. The students will be leaving Sunday, Feb. 28, and returning Sunday, March 7. Grabove says this is the fifth year the college has offered the program.

During the week, students will experience dog sledding and snowshoeing. They'll learn about the exploration of old growth forests, as well as Native spirituality.

The students will snowshoe or ski a 17-kilometre trek to Patten River Camp, where they will stay with a trapper. They'll learn about animal rights, trapping and logging issues.

Grabove says she "loves" being the instructor for the program. "It was really an exciting and creative course to design."

She says the program "fits" with her philosophy of education. "We're all co-learners," she says. "Everybody collaborates to learn together."

"It's very rewarding to be part of a course in which students get on so well together and demonstrate so much evidence of learning and enjoyment."

VALERIE GRABOVE

Grabove says when there were changes within the college system regarding requirements for general education electives, the faculty was invited to "pitch" ideas. She says she put together several proposals. "Two of my favourites were picked up, and this was one of them."

Grabove says she doesn't think the program is an easy credit, but that it's a different challenge for students.

"It's not a course in which people are required to memorize a lot of content." She says it is process oriented and experiential.

"The challenge that the students have is to be physically and mentally involved and to learn and grow based on where they're coming from," says Grabove, adding, "Everybody gets out of it what they put into it."

The students met for two pre-sessions. The first, on Jan. 20, was an introductory session in which the students got to know one another. Concepts such as team building and group work are introduced during the first pre-session.

The second pre-session, on Feb. 13, was an all-day session at the St. John Outdoor Study Centre where students explored environmental issues. A hike through the park, sketches and team building were part of the day's activities.

Grabove says she's looking forward to this year's trip. "Every year is new. Every year is a new experience. I must say that every year is as good as the year before, if not better, while I'm involved in it."

Grabove's assistant is Rob Walsh, a second-year Recreation and Leisure program student. Walsh applied for the position as part of his independent study project. He went through a formal interview process to obtain the position.

There is a $560 cost for students taking the program. The cost covers transportation, accommodations and most meals.

Grabove says the budget for the program "is created so that there's no money left over." She says the cost is anywhere between $12,500 and $13,500.

There are 22 students taking the trip, as well as Grabove and her assistant.